



MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Steven Rosen
Chair

Kenita V. Barrow
Vice Chair

October 27, 2017

Waiver 17-09-017

Pursuant to § 19A-12(b)(1)(B) of the Public Ethics Law, a public employee must not be employed by a business that negotiates or contracts with the County agency with which the public employee is affiliated, unless the Ethics Commission grants a waiver.

Lori Ashton is a social worker with the Aging and Disability Services (ADS) Division, Adult Protective and Case Management Services (APCMS) Section at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). She would like to engage in outside employment as a social worker/discharge planner in the voluntary Inpatient Addiction and Mental Health Unit at Suburban Hospital (Suburban), an entity that has contracts with DHHS.

DHHS has contracts with Suburban for various services, but none with ADS. Ms. Ashton's outside employment with Suburban is not funded by nor has any relationship to the contracts DHHS has with Suburban, and her employment with DHHS as a social worker has no relation to the contracts the County has with Suburban.

Pursuant to § 19A-8(b)(3) of the Public Ethics Law, the Ethics Commission may grant a waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b) if the Ethics Commission concludes that the proposed employment is not likely to create an actual conflict of interest. Upon a review of the request and the Department's concurrence in and support for the waiver request, the Commission finds that there is no actual conflict of interest. Pursuant to the standard of § 19A-8(b)(3), the Commission grants the waiver of the prohibition of § 19A-12(b).

The waiver is conditioned on Ms. Ashton not working in her County capacity on matters involving Suburban; not referring DHHS clients to Suburban; and on Ms. Ashton not working, while at Suburban, with any of her ADS clients.

This waiver expires when the outside employment approval with which it is associated expires, unless a continuation request for outside employment is timely filed and subsequently approved by the Ethics Commission.

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In reaching this decision, the Commission has relied upon the facts as presented by Ms. Ashton.

For the Commission:



Steven Rosen, Chair